



## Press release

**Date: 1 December 2018**

### **Award winning adoption support agency PAC-UK joins national charity Family Action**

National charity Family Action and PAC-UK are delighted to announce they formally merged on the 1 December 2018. Family Action provides some 150 community-based and national services including Early Years Services, services to support Children and Families, Adult Mental Health and Wellbeing Services, the National Schools Breakfast Programme and a UK-wide Grants programme. PAC-UK is England's largest Adoption Support Agency. It was recently judged Outstanding by Ofsted (for the third time in succession) and was the overall winner of the GSK Impact Award 2017. PAC-UK offers specialist therapy, advice, support, counselling and training for all affected by adoption and permanency. It will now join forces with Family Action to expand and enhance the portfolio of services provided by Family Action to people and families across the UK whilst building its own reach and impact with Family Action's support.

David Holmes CBE, Chief Executive, Family Action said:

*"Everyone at Family Action is delighted that PAC-UK and its excellent staff and services are joining us. PAC-UK is a wonderful addition to Family Action's "family" of services. It brings a wealth of knowledge and expertise which can only complement and enhance Family Action's existing spectrum of services. Family Action already provides a range of adoption support and we work with many children and families who have been affected by adoption. We also provide a National Special Guardianship Support Service. PAC-UK will take our service provision in these areas to a new level and in return we offer broad expertise in working with children and families. This is a lovely coming together of complementary skills and experience. Both organisations are committed to developing, delivering and promoting best practice in adoption support and we look forward to working with everyone to continue PAC-UK's important and valuable work which makes such a positive difference to the lives of so many people and families."*

Jim Clifford OBE, Chair of PAC-UK said:

*"PAC-UK was formed four decades ago because a number of people in the sector were concerned at the dearth of quality support for children, families and birth families in adoption. Its remit has developed over the years, always balancing maintaining high quality, affordable provision in mainstream areas with innovation, developing provision for newly emergent needs and using new techniques. Its recent work in the emergent area of child-on-parent violence, and on attachment and trauma in the classroom are just two examples of many. We recognised that, in an increasingly tough operating environment for public services, we needed to be more resilient, with greater depth of support services around us, if we were to maintain quality and develop further capacity. Joining Family Action enables us to do that whilst maintaining and developing all that is so special about PAC-UK."*

For further information, please visit [www.family-action.org.uk](http://www.family-action.org.uk) or [www.pac-uk.org](http://www.pac-uk.org)

**ENDS**



**For further information and interviews please contact:**

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**Notes to Editors:-**

**About Family Action**

Family Action is a charity committed to building stronger families and brighter lives by delivering innovative and effective services and support that reaches out to many of the UK's most vulnerable people. We seek to empower people and communities to address their issues and challenges through practical, financial and emotional help.

Our work is wide-ranging and includes help for parents-to-be, the provision of many Children's Centres in local communities, intensive family support, emotional health and wellbeing services, counselling, mediation and therapies, support in schools and financial grants programmes. Family Action is also recognised as a leading provider of training.

**Registered Charity Number: 264 713**

**Website: [www.family-action.org.uk](http://www.family-action.org.uk)**

**Twitter: @family\_action**

**Facebook: familyaction**

**Instagram: family\_action**

**LinkedIn: [company/family-action](https://www.linkedin.com/company/family-action)**

**About PAC-UK**

PAC-UK is the country's largest independent Adoption Support Agency supporting families and professionals on a national scale, from the Scottish borders to the south coast. Our vision is that all those affected by adoption, Special Guardianship and other forms of permanent care are supported and enabled to live their lives to the full. We have built our expertise over a 30 year period and have achieved 3 consecutive "outstanding" Ofsted ratings since 2010.

Entering adoption, Special Guardianship or another permanent placement is an important step forward in a child's life. PAC-UK understand that this is the beginning of a life-long journey, not just for the child, but also for the adoptive/permanent care family and the birth family left behind. Our support extends to all these groups, and includes adults adopted as children who continue to find difficulties arising on their own life journey. We also offer advice to professionals working with these families in different contexts – in particular adoption social workers, schoolteachers and virtual school staff.

**Registered Charity Number: 294998**

**Website: [www.pac-uk.org](http://www.pac-uk.org)**

**Twitter: @PACUKadoption**

**Facebook: PAC-UK**